

VVA

The Service Program consists of the Service Director/Chief, one full-time Field Service Representative covering the whole Upper Peninsula, a Part-time Service Representative on the Western Part of Michigan, a Part-time representative at the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor and a Volunteer Accredited Service Officer in the Upper-Western part of the State to include one Secretary. Most recently hiring a new full-time service officer in training, which is not accredited as of yet and attended the Basic Service Officers Course during November 2008 and is pending accreditation but is fulfilling the requirements.

The accomplishments are extremely good again this year as shown by the hard work of the service program in recoveries thus far since October 2008 have been over **\$15,658,626 dollars** coming into the State through this service program of the MI State Council. We average between **\$1,500,000 to \$2,400,00** a month in recoveries each month. At this rate, we may out reach the previous years recoveries overall.

At this time, the Department of Michigan Military and Veterans Affairs did not grant this organization the Grant that in hopes was expected, due to many indowendos. We have yet to finalize the reasoning why we did not get a grant, when the others did, and one in particular was under investigation for wrong doing. There are now Seven Veterans organizations receiving a Grant from the State of Michigan. Without VVA receiving such a Grant it is now up-to the organization to seek Grant funds from a different arena to include conducting fundraising to keep the Service Program alive and assisting Veterans and their families the proper counseling and guidance they need to acquire benefits.

Due to the change in policy and the funding, we may have to look at a different angle of doing or conducting business to help those who require help.

Without the National Grant from the AVVAF this service program may have to close it doors which is unfortunate due to the high volume of work we do and the locations we assist.

The Service Program in Michigan currently interviews at one outreach location in Roseville, MI, at times ranging between 15 to 30 claims in one day for either for new or reopened/reconsidered claims or indicating to the veterans or surviving spouses or child, the other location is Jackson some 80 miles away from the main office, bringing in 10 to 15 claims, the Western Part of the State weekly 30 claims or more. We average overall 100 to 125 claims a month.

We continue to do outreach, for the Homeless Stand-down's when notified, going into the Prison systems, and conduct training from a quarterly to Bi-annual, due to the increase in workload and changes the VA has been conducting. This in part is a refresher course pf training as well.

Without the continuing grant provided by the National Headquarters and other means coming in, this service program, would be reduced to volunteers vs employees.